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THE CROSBY FAMILY OF NEW YORK

By ERNEST HOWARD CROSBY

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William Crosby
10 March 1813

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A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE ANCESTRY AND DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM BEDLOW CROSBY, OF NEW YORK, AND OF HARRIET ASHTON CLARK- SON, HIS WIFE.

By ERNEST HOWARD CROSBY.

IN the year 1635, and probably in the month of May, the ship "Susan and Ellen," Edward Payne, Master, set sail from the port of London for New England. Among the ninety-four passengers whom she carried were Simon Crosby, husbandman, aged 26; his wife, Ann, aged 25,* and their son, Thomas, an infant of eight months. All of the ship's company "brought certificates from the Minister and Justices of the Peace that they are no subsidy men and are conformable to the order and discipline of the Church of England."†

Every attempt to fix the place of Simon's English home has been unsuccessful.

We know that the name Crosby signifies Cross-borough or Cross-town, and that it is borne by eight places in England. They are as follows: (1) The parish of Crosby-upon-Eden, near Carlisle, in Cumberland, containing the villages of High Crosby and Low Crosby, which is supposed to have derived its name from the ancient cross to which the inhabitants resorted for prayer before the church was built on its site in the reign of Henry I.; (2) a village in the western division of Cumberland; (3) and (4) two villages, Crosby-Garrett and Crosby-Ravensworth, in Westmoreland; (5) a village in the North Riding of Yorkshire; (6) a village in Lincolnshire, and (7) and (8) two villages, Great Crosby and Little Crosby, suburbs of Liverpool, in Lancashire.

The family must originally have derived its name from one of these places. Thus in 1220 one Simon de Crosseby is mentioned as holding land in Crosby in Lancashire, from which village he had evidently drawn his surname. In the early part of the seventeenth century the name is found in London, and in Essex, Hertfordshire, and other counties near the metropolis. Only one bearer of the name had

* According to her tombstone, she was 29 in 1635, but tombstones are notoriously incorrect.

† See Halton's Lists, 2d ed., pp. 59, 62, 76, J. W. Bouton, 706 Broadway, N. Y., 1880.

distinguished himself, and this was Sir John Crosby, a wealthy merchant, who became alderman and sheriff of London in 1470, and was knighted by Edward IV. in 1471 for helping in the defence of London against an attack of pirates. Sir John built Crosby Palace, now called Crosby Hall, for his residence, at that time the finest house in London. The hall, "throne-room," and council chamber are still standing. The palace was once occupied by the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., and has been immortalized by Shakespeare. In "Richard III." Gloster asks Lady Anne to "repair to Crosby House" (Act 1, Sc. 2). In the same house Sir Thomas More lived seven years and wrote his *Utopia*. Sir John Crosby was sent by King Edward III. on a mission to the Duke of Burgundy and Brittany. He died in 1475, and his tomb in St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, London, is one of the finest examples of monumental architecture in England. One of his sons was named Thomas. It is impossible to prove any connection between this family and the emigrant of 1635, although it is not unlikely that they came of the same stock.

We have information relating to some of Simon Crosby's fellow-colonists of 1635 which leads us to suppose that he may have come to America as one of the company of the Rev. Thomas Shepard, who crossed the ocean in that year and settled at Newtown, now Cambridge, Massachusetts. This Mr. Shepard was preceded or accompanied by a large number of his friends and acquaintances. He was a graduate of Emanuel College, Cambridge, had taken orders in the Church of England, and had held livings in Yorkshire and Northumberland, but he entertained conscientious scruples regarding the ceremonies of his church, and was consequently so harassed by those in authority that he left England, and became one of the most eminent clergymen in New England. The chief reason for establishing Harvard College at Cambridge was the fact that he lived there.*

In his autobiography Mr. Shepard gives an account of his emigration. He says: "Divers people in Old England of my old friends desired me to go to New England there to live together and some went before and writ to me of providing a place for a company of us, one of which was John Bridge, and I saw divers families of my Christian friends who were resolved thither to go with me." In 1634 they set sail, but were driven back by bad weather. Again, in August, 1635, they embarked on the "Defense." "And so the Lord, after many sad storms and wearisome days and many longings to see the shore, brought us to the sight of it upon October 2, 1635, and upon October the 3rd, we arrived with my wife, child, brother Samuel, Mr. Harlekenden, Mr. Cooke, etc., at Boston. When we had been here two days, on Monday, October 5, we came, (being sent for by friends at Newtown) to them, to my brother Mr. Stone's house; and that congregation being upon their removal to Hartford at Connecticut, myself and those that came with me found many houses empty and many persons willing to sell, and here our company bought off their houses to dwell in until we should see another place fit to remove into; but having been here some time, divers of our brethren did desire to sit still and not to remove farther, partly because of the fellowship of the churches, partly

* Paige's History of Cambridge, Mass., pp. 250, 653.



because they thought their lives were short and removals to near plantations full of troubles, partly because they found sufficient for themselves and their company."* Mr. Paige, the historian of Cambridge, Massachusetts, says, referring to the records of that town, that "the larger portion of those whose names first appear in 1635 and 1636 may safely be regarded as members of his company," and in the list which he appends we find the name of Simon Crosby, and of five of his fellow-passengers of the "Susan and Ellen." Altogether at least thirteen of those who sailed on that vessel, including women and children, settled at Newtown (Cambridge) in 1635 or 1636. We have every reason, therefore, to believe that they were followers of Mr. Shepard. The "Susan and Ellen" undoubtedly landed her passengers at Boston, and it was only a short time afterwards, and before the end of 1635, that we find Simon Crosby living at Newtown. He was admitted as a freeman on March 3, 1636, and on November 7th of the same year his fellow-townsmen honored him by choosing him as selectman. On September 4, 1637, he was elected surveyor of highways; he was selectman again in 1638, and on October 26th of that year he was elected constable. His house stood at the corner of Brattle Street and Brattle Square, nearly where the old Brattle House was afterwards built.† On December 5, 1636, land was granted to him and six others for pasture. If he was one of those followers of the Rev. Mr. Shepard who "thought their lives were short," he was not mistaken, for he died at Cambridge in September, 1639, at the early age of one-and-thirty, after only four years of life in America. The records show that he died intestate. He left a widow and three young children—Thomas, born in England in 1635; Simon, born at Cambridge in August, 1637, and Joseph, born also at Cambridge in February, 1639.

Ann Crosby, the widow of Simon, doubtless continued to live at Cambridge with her children until about the year 1646 or 1647, when she married the Rev. William Tompson, of Braintree, now Quincy, a village on the coast south of Boston. On October 15, 1651, she took out letters of administration on her first husband's estate for the purpose of selling his property in Cambridge, and on August 8, 1652, she sold the house with six acres adjoining and also 147 acres of land in the neighborhood.‡ The original inventory, signed "Anne Crosby," is on file in the archives of Massachusetts at Boston. It places the value of his property at £433.

Mr. Tompson, her second husband, was a man of some distinction. He was a native of Lancashire, had been educated at Oxford, and had been settled as a clergyman in the North of England. Mather gives him a place in his "Magnalia":

"Oxford this light with Tongues and Arts doth trim;
And then his Northern town doth challenge him.
His time and strength he centred there in this,
To do good works and be what now he is.
His fulgent virtues there and learned strains,
Tall, comely presence, life unsoiled with stains.
Things most on Worthies in their stories writ,
Did him to move in Orbs of service fit."

* Life of Shepard, Boston, 1832, pp. 42-58; Paige's Cambridge, p. 34.

† Paige's Cambridge, p. 519.

‡ Liber I of Conveyances, p. 44, East Cambridge Court House.

Mr. Tompson was also an author. Mr. Winthrop calls him "a very holy man." In Hubbard's history he is said to have had a melancholy temperament and a crazy body, which description hardly coincides with Mather's poetic flight.* He came to America in 1636 or 1637, and was ordained first pastor of the church at Braintree in 1639. In 1642 with the consent of his church he went on a missionary tour to Virginia, the voyage thither taking twelve weeks on account of stormy weather. Mather recounts his experiences as follows:

"When Reverend Knowles and he sailed hand in hand,
To Christ espousing the Virginia land,
Upon a ledge † of craggy rocks near staved,
His Bible in his bosom thrusting saved;
The Bible, the best cordial of his heart,
'Come floods, come flames, (cried he) we'll never part.'
A constellation of great converts there,
Shone round him and his heavenly glory were.
Gookins was one of these; by Tompson's pains,
Christ and New England a dear Gookins gains." ‡

In January, 1643, while Mr. Tompson was absent in Virginia, his first wife died, leaving a family of young children. After his return from Virginia, as we have seen, he married Ann Crosby, and without doubt took her young children to Braintree to be brought up with his own.

In 1648 he attended the Synod at Cambridge, and Winthrop relates the following anecdote:

"It fell out about the midst of his (Mr. Allen's) sermon, there came a snake into the seat where many of the elders sate behind the preacher. It came in at the door where many people stood thick upon the stairs. Divers of the elders shifted from it, but Mr. Tompson, one of the elders of Braintree, a man of much faith, trode upon the head of it, and so held it with his foot and staff with a small pair of grains, until it was killed. This being so remarkable, and nothing falling out but by divine providence, it is out of doubt, the Lord discovered somewhat of his mind in it. The serpent is the devil; the Synod the representative of the churches of Christ in New England. The devil had formerly and lately attempted their disturbance and dissolution; but their faith in the seed of the woman overcame him and crushed his head." §

Mr. Tompson's health was finally undermined by melancholia and he retired from his labors as a preacher in 1659. He was sixty-eight years old when he died in 1666, having at the last recovered his peace of mind, but leaving his family in straitened circumstances. His grave-stone in Braintree (now Quincy) churchyard recites that:

"He was a learned, solid, sound divine,
Whose name and fame in both Englands did shine."

Johnson in his "Wonderworking Providence" says that the officers of Braintree had "somewhat short allowance" || and adds that "the Reverend Mr. Tompson is a man abounding in zeal for the propagation

* Mass. Hist. Coll., Vol. VI., 2d series.

† At Hell Gate.

‡ Mather's "Magnalia," Life of Tompson.

§ II. Winthrop's New England, p. 330.

|| Mr. Tompson's salary was £55; see "Two Discourses" by Wm. P. Lunt, on occasion of the Bi-centennial of the Quincy Church in 1839. Boston, 1840, p. 43.

of the Gospel and of an ardent affection, in so much that he is apt to forget himself in things that concern his own good." These facts account for the subsequent need of his family. In 1665 a contribution was made for his benefit in the Dorchester church of which he had been a member. As early as 1661 there was a dispute between Mrs. Tompson and the deacons of Braintree. In 1668, after her husband's death, she presented a petition to the General Court complaining that moneys due her for his services were withheld, although she goes on to say that she "humbly craves, that she may not be interpreted to accuse the Church of acts of any injustice or neglect in the place where she lived." Mather refers as follows to the destitution in which Mr. Tompson died:

"Braintree was of the jewel then possessed,
Until himself he labored into rest;
His Inventory then with John's was took,
A rough coat, girdle, with the sacred book."*

His widow, Ann Crosby, died in 1675. Her epitaph in Quincy churchyard reads thus:

"Here lyes buried ye Body of The Pious Mrs. Ann Tompson wife to Mr. William Tompson who deceased October 8, 1675, aged 69."

Thomas, the eldest of the children of Simon Crosby, was about eleven years old when his mother remarried, and the youngest, Joseph, with whom we are most concerned, was only seven. Their step-father, Mr. Tompson, must have had the greatest influence in their education and in the foundation of their characters.

In 1657 we are told that Mr. Tompson's family consisted of only three persons, and these must have been himself, his wife, and their only child Ann, born in 1648. It follows that by this time their children by former marriages must have left the parental roof. Joseph Crosby was then 18 years old.

We may now dismiss the older brothers in a few words. Thomas,† born in England in 1635, was graduated at Harvard College in 1653, and became a clergyman. He was minister at Eastham from 1655 to 1670. He died in 1702, and has had many descendants on Cape Cod. Simon, junior, born in 1637, removed early to Billerica and was the first inn-keeper in that town. He was Representative in the General Court in 1691, 1697, and 1698. He died about 1725, and his descendants have also been numerous.

Joseph, the third son, was the ancestor of the family whose line we are tracing. He was born at Cambridge in February, 1639. His father died when he was but seven months old. He lived with his mother at Cambridge until she married the Rev. William Tompson, when, at the age of about seven years, he was taken by her to Braintree to live with his step-father's family. He passed the rest of his life there as a farmer. He was always prominent in town affairs and we frequently find him serving upon committees.‡ Thus, for instance, on March 25, 1673, he was named one of a committee of three to survey a tract of 6,000 acres belonging to the town; for which service they were each to receive 500 acres.

* See Tompson's Life given in Lunt's "Two Discourses" (supra), p. 78 et sequ.

† See I., Sibley's Harvard Graduates, 382.

‡ See Braintree Town Records, edited by Samuel A. Bates, 1886, passim.

In 1683 we find him again on a committee charged with an important duty. One Richard Thayer had presented a claim to all the lands of Braintree, basing his rights upon a supposed deed from an Indian chief named Wampatuck, alias Josiah Sachem. The matter came up before the Privy Council at Whitehall, and the town was much alarmed. On July 17th the following minute appears in the records: "At a public Town Meeting it was voted that the present Selectmen together with Caleb Hobart and Joseph Crosby shall be a committee and be empowered by the Town of Brantry to consider and act according to their best discretion, what may be most advisable in order to a transmission of an Authentic Copy of a Deed from Josiah Sachem according to his Majesty's order; and also to consider and to do what may be most conducable for the Town's safety in all the premises, to do in behalf of the Towne, according to their best judgment; only the Towne to have a sight to what is sent."* Life at Braintree at this time was rendered unsafe by the Indians. On February 25, 1675, they made a raid on the town and killed three men and one woman. They carried her six or seven miles and hung her up by the wayside. On December 3d, in the same year, Joseph Crosby was impressed as a "trooper" with six others from his town and mustered into Captain Davis's company.† A garrison on the frontier of the township was eventually established.

On May 20, 1689, "the inhabitants of Braintree being convened together to give their sentiments and minds about a present settlement of a government in the said colony until we shall receive orders from the Crown of England," chose Christopher Webb, senior, and Joseph Crosby, to represent them at Boston.

The representatives had been summoned to consider the case of the Governor, Sir Edmund Andros, who had been turned out of office and imprisoned as the result of a bloodless revolution. Andros had represented the Stuart despotism. He had overturned the Charter of the Province, imposed taxes without the consent of the people, infringed the liberty of the press, and arrested those who protested. The representatives, of whom Joseph Crosby was one, met in June, 1689, and demanded the unconditional resumption of the charter. Fortunately, at the same time the Revolution occurred in England; James II. was driven out and the new government substantially approved of the little revolution in Massachusetts.‡

In 1690 Joseph was a selectman, and on March 4, 1695, he was chosen constable.

On April 1, 1675, he had been married by Mr. Tyng to Sarah, daughter of Captain Richard Brackett, a leading fellow-townsmen. They had several children, but their oldest son, Joseph, was not born until about the year 1687. Thomas and Simon, twins, were born January 16, 1689. Mrs. Crosby died about 1690, and her husband was married again to Eleanor, widow of Stephen Paine, and daughter of William and Eleanor Veasy. The Paines and Veasys were well-known Braintree families. Eleanor had married her first husband, Stephen

* History of Old Braintree and Quincy, by W. S. Pattee, M.D., p. 40 et seq. Quincy, 1878.

† *Ib.* p. 364.

‡ Barry's History of Massachusetts, Vol. I., pp. 479-512.

Paine, in 1681. He died of small-pox May 24, 1690, and is described as "a devout Christian, a cunning artificer and ingenious to admiration." When she married Joseph Crosby, Eleanor Paine was about three or four and thirty, and had several children. Joseph Crosby had one son by her named Ebenezer, born November 17, 1694.

Joseph Crosby died November 26, 1695, at the age of 56. His widow Eleanor survived until 1722, when her sons took out letters of administration on her estate, giving bonds in the sum of £500. Joseph's will was admitted to probate at Boston on February. 20, 1696, and reads as follows : *

" November 16, 1695.

" In the name of God, Amen : I, Joseph Crosbye of Braintrey in New England, being now upon a sick bed and for ought I know upon my death bed ; and remembering and being mindful of That word set thyne house in order, and I not knowing how it may please God To deal with me, and being yet of memory and of a disposing minde I doe Trusting in God through ye alone merits of Jesus Christ my only saviour and redeemer for acceptance and salvation, revoke and make null all former wills by me made, and doe ordayne this my last will and Testament as followeth—

my will is that my beloved wife Elin Crosby (after my just debts with funerall charges are defrayed and payd) shall have and improve my whole estate for the benefitt and comfort of her and my children with ye children that she brought with her, during her Widdowhood whilest she bares my name ; but in case she remains a widdow until my eldest son come of age, then she to have such a part of my estate as my overseers and shee can agree upon, but if she change her condition I give her a hundred pound and the house-hold stuffe she brought with her.

I give to my eldest son a double Portion of all my lands and estate and he to have his choice both of Lands and meadow and to my other † fower sons equall shares of the remainder of the estate To them and either of them their heirs and assigns forever.

I give to my daughter Anna Crosby her heirs and assigns forever a hundred pound besides what she hath had given her allready and my will is that if any of my sons dye without issue Their Lands shall be equally divided amongst the rest of my sons, my eldest having a double portion out of it. Also I give and bequeath to ye Pore of ye church five Pounds; and doe desire and request my oversears hereafter named to take ye care of my children and at their discession To dispose of them into such Families and To such Trades as may be for their best good, both as to outward and inward man and I desire and empower my Loving Freinds Mr. John Wilson, Lieutenant Alexander Marsh, James Brackett and Nathaniel Wales To see this my will performed and to make a division thereof as above expressed and doe oblige each and all my children To rest satisfied therewith: and I doe give them full power To demand sue for and recover all debts due to my estate: and farther doe appoint my soun Joseph Crosby to bee sole executor To this my last Will and Testament when he shall arrive to the age of one and twenty

* Liber 13 of Wills, p. 735, Probate Record Office.

† We have only the names of four sons in all, Joseph, Thomas, Simon, and Ebenezer.

years, and in testimony that this is my last will and testament I have hereunto set my hand and seal ye day and yeare above written.

"JOSEPH CROSBIE (L. S.)

"Signed Sealed and Published in Presence of us

"JOSEPH NOALL

"NATHANIEL SPEAR his marke

"JOSEPH PARMENTER."

Joseph Crosby was buried in Braintree (now Quincy) churchyard, and his gravestone still standing there bears this inscription:

"Here lyeth ye Body of Mr. Joseph Crosbie Aged 56 years, died November ye 26, 1695."

It is now with his eldest son, Joseph Crosby, junior, that we have to deal. He was born, as we have seen, about the year 1687, and his mother was the first wife of Joseph Crosby, senior, Sarah Brackett. As soon as he was twenty-one years old, he began to take a lead in the management of the affairs of Braintree. At the town meeting held on March 1, 1708, he was appointed on a committee, and from that time until his death, sixty years later, he was one of the principal men of the place. He was elected town treasurer on March 6, 1710, and he was re-elected every year thereafter until 1717. In that year he was chosen constable, but seems to have supplied a substitute. The office of treasurer was not very lucrative, as upon his retirement the sum of £4 was voted him "for his services as Town Treasurer the years past." In 1713 he was one of a committee of three to lay out 6,000 acres for the town, for which they were to receive £30. He was elected selectman every year from 1720 to 1739 with three exceptions, and again in 1744 and 1747. He was named Justice of the Peace on July 21, 1741, and January 28, 1762. To this office he owed his titles of "Judge" and "Esquire." He was for many years almost continuously employed on committees, and more than a score of times he was chosen as moderator of the town meetings. In 1721 and 1728 he was appointed trustee with others to "receive and let out" the bills of credit issued by the Province to the town. These bills were issued on the first occasion to pay for the Narragansett Indian wars, and on the second to defray the expenses of the capture of Louisburg. In 1731 he was one of a committee to provide for the erection of a new meeting house. The committee was authorized—apparently on the occasion of laying the corner-stone—to purchase "bread, cheese, sugar, rum, sider, and beer." In 1733 Joseph is the first named of a committee of three to urge the formation of a separate county out of the neighboring towns, thus casting loose from Boston. He was also prominent in the militia. He became lieutenant in 1734, captain in 1738, and major in 1742. On May 14, 1750, he was elected Representative in the Massachusetts Legislature, and he was re-elected the following year. His name appears for the last time in the town records on August 24, 1763, when he acted as moderator.

It is easy to see that such a life was full of activity and interest. In a Massachusetts town of that period all the inhabitants paid close attention to public affairs. Thus in 1731, at a town meeting over which Joseph Crosby presided, it was "Voted that the thanks of this meeting be returned to the Honorable House of Representatives for their faithful service in asserting and defending the Just Liberties of



HARRIET ASHTON CROSBY,

WIFE OF WILLIAM BEDLOW CROBY.

FROM THE PORTRAIT PAINTED BY WALDO IN 1812.



this Province (as we esteem they have done and which we highly approve) and desire that they would continue strenuously to endeavor the maintaining and defending the same." This resolution refers to the contest between the legislature and the Governor, Jonathan Belcher, relating to his salary, the legislature claiming the right to fix its amount. The royal commission of the Governor refers to the undutiful behavior of the Province in this matter of salary, "and many others of the same nature and tendency, whereby it manifestly appears that this Assembly for some years last past has attempted by unwarrantable practice, to weaken if not to cast off, the obedience they owe to the Crown, and the dependence which all colonies ought to have on their mother country." But the House, notwithstanding, insisted that the settlement of a salary would "deprive the people of their rights as Englishmen."* The inhabitants of Braintree were evidently staunch supporters of the legislature, and it was among such townspeople that Joseph Crosby filled a leading place.†

Perhaps if he had lived later in the century he might have been something more than a "village Hampden," and have proved himself a worthy fellow-townsmen of the Adamses, Quincys and Hancock. John Adams, afterwards President of the United States, began the practice of the law in Joseph Crosby's court, and speaks of him in his diary. Under the date of Wednesday, January 3, 1759, he gives a picture of the court-room. "Yesterday went down to defend an action for an old horse versus Samuel Spear. This was undertaking the relief of distressed poverty, the defense of innocence and justice against oppression and injustice. . . . It was a scene of absolute confusion;—Major Crosby persuading an agreement, the parties raging and scolding, I arguing and the three volunteers proposing each one his own project, and all the spectators smiling, whispering, etc."‡

Again on Monday, June 23, 1760, he writes: "A long obdurate trial before Major Crosby, of the most litigious, vexatious suit, I think, that ever I heard. Such disputes begin with ill humor and scurrilous language, and end in a boxing bout or a law-suit."§

And again on Thursday, January 8, 1761: "Last Monday had a passionate wrangle with Eben Thayer before Major Crosby. He (Thayer) called me a *petty lawyer*. I resented it."||

One other reference to Joseph Crosby in President Adams's diary is worth quoting. On Friday, November 7, 1766, he writes: "Afternoon, went to Major Crosby's to see him execute a codicil to his will. The old gentleman is very desirous that the Province should comply with the King's recommendation to make up the damages to the sufferers."¶ This refers to the relief of those who had sustained damage in the riot caused by the first Stamp Act. The King had repealed the act, and recommended the payment of these damages by the Province.

* Barry's History of Massachusetts, vol. i., pp. 129-130.

† For a graphic account of life in old Braintree, see Charles Francis Adams's "Three Episodes in Massachusetts History," vol. ii., pp. 581-1009 (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, 1892).

‡ Works of John Adams. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1850, vol. ii., p. 57.

§ Ib. p. 92. || Ib. p. 110.

¶ Ib. p. 202. This codicil was never admitted to probate, having been superseded by the Will of Jan. 26, 1769. For other references to Joseph Crosby in Mr. Adams's diary see ib., pp. 87, 113, 128, 129, 259.

Joseph Crosby was in favor of adopting this course as a conciliatory measure, and Mr. Adams fully agreed with him.

Major Crosby (for so we must call him to distinguish him from his father, the first Joseph) was married on December 27, 1726, by John Quincy, Esq., to Abigail Adams, a member of the afterwards famous family.* She was, I believe, a granddaughter of Joseph Adams, of Braintree, who married Abigail Baxter in 1650, and who was the great-grandfather of President John Adams. They had one daughter, Abigail Crosby, born in 1731, who became the wife of Samuel Bass. Mrs. Crosby died July 8, 1732. Her husband was married a second time to Ann Belcher†—probably in the year 1748. Their daughter Mary, born in 1749, became the wife of Peter Boylston Adams, brother of President John Adams. A son, Joseph, was born in 1751, and a second, Ebenezer, on September 30, 1753. They had also a third son, named Josiah. Major Crosby died in February or March, 1769, on the eve of the Revolutionary struggle. He was then about 82 years old. In the Quincy churchyard there is a Crosby-Belcher tomb in which he was probably buried. The Belchers were one of the original families of Braintree and one of the most prolific.

Major Crosby was a man of some means. He inherited a double portion of his father's estate. He was a slave-owner, as is shown by the marriage lists, which record the marriage of his servant Nancy in 1741, and in 1757 of "Toney and Lois, negro servants of Joseph Crosby, Esq., of this town, entered by their master's order." When the new meeting house was built in 1731, he took one of the eight best pews, which brought £25 each.‡ The inventory of his estate after his death shows that he owned about 300 acres of land and gives the total appraised value of his property at £1,700.§ There was only one wealthier man in the town, Edmund Quincy, whose estate was appraised at £2,200.|| Norton Quincy was appointed guardian of Joseph Crosby's three sons, all of whom were minors over fourteen years of age. Joseph's will was dated January 26, 1769, and begins as follows: ¶ "This is the last will and testament of me Joseph Crosby of Braintree in the County of Suffolk in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Esq'r." He gives to his wife Ann Crosby a part of his dwelling house, and the garden, "the whole of my indoor movables," his chairs, and an annuity of £15. To his daughter Abigail, wife of Samuel Bass, Jr., he leaves certain lands; to his daughter Mary Adams he gives a house, "formerly the Tavern," with the land adjoining and also £50. His son Joseph receives a devise of real estate. To his son Ebenezer he

* There were several Abigail Adamses, of whom at least two were granddaughters of Joseph Adams. It is impossible to identify Joseph Crosby's wife.

† It is impossible to state with certainty whose daughter Ann Belcher was. She was probably the Anne Belcher, born May 19, 1718, daughter of Moses Belcher, of Braintree, and Anne Sason, of Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard. They were married May 20, 1715. Moses Belcher (born Dec. 16, 1692) was the son of Samuel Belcher (died June 17, 1769) and Comfort, his wife. See Braintree Town Records, pp. 672, 703, 743.

‡ His former pew is mentioned in Charles Francis Adams's "Three Episodes in Massachusetts History," vol. ii., p. 735; and see p. 832.

§ See Liber 68, pp. 85-6, and Lib. 68, pp. 21-3, 27, Boston Probate Office.

|| Pattee's History, pp. 233, 459.

¶ See Liber 68, pp. 85-6, and Liber 69, pp. 21-3, 27, Boston Probate Office.

gives his "dwelling house and homestead," and to his son Josiah certain other land. He appoints his "loving wife Ann Crosby and Norton Quincy and Joseph Palmer, both of Braintree, Gentlemen," executors of his will. In a codicil dated February 17, 1769, he gives "unto my loving wife Ann Crosby my Negro woman and a seat in my pew in the meeting house in the north precinct in Braintree."

The pew itself he gave to Ebenezer, and adds, "I give to my son Joseph all my law books and three volumes of Boile's Works, the remainder of my books to be divided equally amongst my other children." His gun he leaves to his son Joseph. The will and codicil were admitted to probate on March 17, 1769.

It seems to have been Major Crosby's intention that his son Joseph should take up the profession of the law and be educated accordingly, while Ebenezer was to retain the homestead and family pew and become a farmer. Joseph was graduated at Harvard in 1772. President Adams speaks of him as a "senior sophister at College" in February of that year, and says that he passed the evening with him (Works, vol. ii., p. 293). He married Elizabeth Soper in 1777. She died in 1782 and he followed in 1783. Only one child survived them and grew up; her name was Eliza Ann, and she married her cousin Boyleston Adams, son of Peter Boyleston Adams, and had four daughters.

Ebenezer found another career than that which seems to have been designated for him. He was only fifteen years old when his father died, and was thus left somewhat free to shift for himself, although his mother, Ann Belcher, still survived. He became a student at Harvard College, in the town where his grandfather was born, and in 1777 he was graduated there. He had adopted the medical profession, and as the Revolutionary War was in progress, and Cambridge itself was the centre of operations, he had already found employment as Surgeon in the Army. In 1779, Dr. Crosby signed a certificate in defence of Dr. John Morgan, who had been removed from the post of Director General of the Hospital and Physician-in-Chief of the American Army, which states that in 1775 and 1776, and until the evacuation of Boston, he, Dr. Crosby, was employed as a Mate in the Hospital Department at Cambridge.* On December 2, 1779, he applied to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for certain allowances. His petition was granted nearly a year later, viz. : on November 23, 1780, in the following terms :

"Whereas Ebenezer Crosby, Surgeon of the Corps of Guards, has represented to this Court that he has not received any clothing from this State, and that he is in great want thereof,

"Therefore, *Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed, and they are hereby directed, to deliver to Ebenezer Crosby, Surgeon of the Corps of Guards, such articles of clothing as he is entitled to receive by the resolution of Congress of the 20th of November, 1780," etc.† The Corps of Guards to which we find him attached was formed by an order of General Washington before Boston, dated March 11, 1776, to take the place of Lieutenant-Colonel Knowlton's "Connecticut Rangers," against whom the jealousy of the other regiments had been aroused. It is highly proba-

* See Dr. Morgan's Vindication, *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 17, 24, et seq., 1779.

† Massachusetts Resolves, 1780, pp. 30-1.

ble that Dr. Crosby served first with these rangers, as Heitman in his "Historical Register of Officers" assigns him to Connecticut. The Corps of Guards was designed to act as a guard for the commander-in-chief. The order organizing them directs that the men should be chosen from various regiments, of a certain height, and "to be handsomely and well made." It consisted of a major's command, one hundred and eighty men. The corps was reorganized at Morristown, New Jersey, in 1777, none but native Americans being chosen. The number was considerably increased, and part of them were mounted as cavalry. Their uniform was a blue coat with white facings; white waistcoat and breeches, black stock and black half gaiters, and a round hat with blue and white feather. The corps never numbered over 250 men, and it accompanied General Washington throughout the war.* It was no small honor for Dr. Crosby, when only twenty-three or four years of age, to be commissioned surgeon of this corps. That he remained attached to it until he retired from the service is to be gathered from the fact that when after the war he joined the Society of the Cincinnati, he signed the roll as "Surgeon of his Excellency's Guards." While following the commander-in-chief from headquarters, Ebenezer Crosby prosecuted his studies in some way or other. He took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1780 and that of Master of Arts at Harvard in 1782; at the same time, Yale awarded him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. It is likely that in those unsettled times residence at the college was not required from those in active service.

In 1783, at the close of the war, Washington bade farewell to his officers at New York, and Dr. Crosby, who had long been wandering far from his native State, began the practice of his profession in that city. On May 1, 1784, he was paid \$303.63 for medicine and attendance on the troops in New York.† He was only thirty years old, but he soon became a man of prominence in his new home.

On October 11, 1781, he had married Catharine Bedlow, eldest daughter of William Bedlow, of New York, and niece of Colonel Henry Rutgers. The wedding took place at New Windsor, as New York was still in the hands of the British.‡ This marriage allied Dr. Crosby with several of the oldest New York families. William Bedlow, Dr. Crosby's father-in-law, had been a sea captain and was afterwards a merchant. He was chosen on June 8, 1775, as one of the Committee of Secrecy and Inspection, whose duty it was to see to the enforcement of the decrees of the Provincial Congress. He was thus committed to the Revolutionary cause from the outset. He was also one of a committee of forty-eight to conduct the election of officers for the military companies organized in the city. He was also "Commissioner for the erection of fortifications in the Highlands on the Hudson River" from 1775 to 1777 (Journal N. Y. Provincial Congress, I., 91, 99, 103). In 1784 he was postmaster of New York City. He and his wife both died in 1798 in the yellow-fever epidemic.

Catharine Bedlow, who became Mrs. Crosby, was born May 19,

* See paper read by B. J. Lossing before New York Historical Society, January 5, 1858, on Washington's Life Guards.

† See accounts of Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance.

‡ William Bedlow, in his family bible (now in the possession of Mrs. William B. Beekman), says that the wedding took place at Clinton House (the residence of Governor Clinton?) the Rev. John Moffat officiating.

1757, and baptized the 28th at St. George's Chapel by the Rev. Mr. Barclay.

For a few years the prospects of Dr. Crosby seemed bright. Three sons were born to him: John Player, on January 15, 1785; William Bedlow, on February 7, 1786; and Henry Rutgers, on June 11, 1787. The doctor was appointed Professor of Obstetrics at Columbia College. His lectures are advertised to take place "at the University" in the New York *Packet* of November 14, 1785, and a year later at his house, 59 Queen Street.* By act of the legislature (chap. 82, laws of 1787; sec. 9, passed April 13, 1787) he was named one of the trustees of Columbia College, upon its reorganization. He was also one of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati. His badge now belongs to his great-grandson, the Rev. Arthur Crosby.

When the Rev. Manasseh Cutler, agent of the Ohio Company, a corporation founded for the purpose of colonizing the West, visited New York in 1787, he bore letters of introduction to Dr. Crosby. On Saturday, July 7, he writes in his diary: "In the evening called on Dr. Crosby in company with Mr. Hazard. Dr. Crosby is Professor of Midwifery in the University of this city. He is much of a gentleman and received me very politely."† Again, on July 10th, he makes this entry: "Called on Dr. Crosby in company with Mr. Hazard. The Doctor is Professor of Midwifery in Columbia College in this city, and was so polite as to invite me to visit the College and introduce me to the Governors." Then follows a description of the college buildings.

Ill health had, however, already begun to do its work. Dr. Crosby's lungs showed signs of weakness, and in November, 1787, he sailed for St. Vincent, in the West Indies, to escape the northern winter. His departure is thus noticed in the New York *Journal* of November 15, 1787: "On Sunday last sailed from this port the ship *Christopher*, Captain Smith, for St. Vincent's. In the *Christopher* went as passenger Dr. Crosby of this city. The doctor was induced to this change of climate from the circumstances of his health having been for some months on the decline. We are told that the lectures on Midwifery (during Dr. Crosby's absence) are to be held at the stated seasons by Dr. Bard, senior."

This voyage proved to be of no avail. Dr. Crosby returned to New York after some months, and died there on Wednesday, July 16, 1788, at three in the afternoon, not having completed his thirty-fifth year. The New York *Packet* of the 18th contains the following: "On Wednesday afternoon, 16th instant, departed this life, greatly lamented by his friends and acquaintances, Dr. Ebenezer Crosby, after a lingering consumptive illness which he sustained with Christian fortitude, patience, and resignation. His remains are to be interred this afternoon."

The New York *Journal* of Friday, July 18th, has the following paragraph: "On Tuesday (Wednesday) last, in the midst of his usefulness to society, Dr. Ebenezer Crosby bade adieu to the transitory joys of time after a tedious decline of more than a twelvemonth. The doctor was a native of Braintree, in New England; he ever sustained an irreproachable character, was an accomplished surgeon, in which capacity he served in the late army to general satisfaction; he was esteemed

* See *Medical Register*, vol. xxii. (G. Putnam's Sons, 1884), pp. 257, 262, 286.

† "Life of Manasseh Cutler," Cincinnati, 1888, pp. 229, 231, 239.

by every one who knew him, and has died greatly lamented, particularly by his amiable consort. His remains will be interred this afternoon at five o'clock from Mr. Bedlow's in Wall Street. We are told that the members of the Cincinnati are to walk in procession on this solemn occasion." *

His widow survived him only seven months. She died, "after a long and painful illness" on Thursday, February 19, 1789. Her remains were interred in the family vault in the New "Dutch Church," † where her husband's body had already been laid. It is remembered in the family that she was noted for her beauty and for her saintly character. Her youngest son, Henry, died on May 22, 1788, and the two who remained, John and William, were only four and three years old respectively when they were left orphans. Their mother on her death-bed committed them to the care of their great-uncle, Col. Henry Rutgers, choosing him in preference to nearer relatives on account of his piety. As they were virtually adopted by him and became practically members of the Rutgers family, it seems proper here to give some account of that family.

The Rutgers family of New York was descended from Harman Rutgers, whose name first appears as a private in the Burgher Corps of New Amsterdam in 1653. Pearson in his "Albany First Settlers" says that he was a son of Rutger Jacobsen, but this is improbable. Harman married a daughter of Anthony de Hooges, Secretary of the "Colonie" of Rensselaerswyck, after whom the mountain "Anthony's Nose" in the Hudson Highlands was named. Harman was a brewer, and as early as 1675 had a brewery at Albany. About the year 1693 the Indians caused him so much trouble destroying his barley crops that he removed to New York with his two sons, Anthony and Harman, Jr., who were both brewers. His daughter Elsie remained in Albany as the wife of David Schuyler, once mayor of that city. Harman's elder son, Anthony, married Hendrickje Vandewater, and became the ancestor of the Lisenard and Barclay families, and also of the Stewart, de Lancey, Beverly, Robinson, Rives, Vanderbilt, and other well-known families. Harman Rutgers,² the younger son of the original Harman, married Catharine Meyer, and had several children.

He writes in his family Bible on Christmas Day, 1706: "I, Harman Rutgers, was married to Catharina Meyer, by Dominie De Booys. May the Lord grant us a long and happy life together, Amen." Again he writes: "1711, December 4th: Were moved from mother's house to our own place in the Vly, and have made the first beer there the 24th of December. May the Lord bless us in the work of our hands." From their oldest son, Harman 3d, born in 1708, descended among others the Le Roy family. Harman's² daughter Elsie married John Marshall and has descendants living. Eva, another daughter, born in 1719, married John Provoost, and was the mother of Samuel Provoost, first Episcopal Bishop of New York. Harman's² second son, Hendrick, born in 1712, was married in 1732 to Catharine de Peyster,

* For reference to Dr. Ebenezer Crosby see Appleton's "Cyclopedia of American Biography," tit. "Crosby"; Pattee's "History of Braintree," p. 599; Munsell's "American Ancestry," vol. iii., p. 12 (Albany, 1888). See also his portrait in the "Memorial History of New York," vol. 3, p. 383, taken from a miniature in the possession of the Rev. Arthur Crosby.

† *New York Journal*, February 26, 1789.

daughter of Johannes de Peyster, at one time Mayor of New York.* Hendrick's father had already bought a farm on the East River (now included in the Seventh Ward) and Hendrick went to live on it. This farm supplied barley for the brewery, and another "brew-house" was built on it. After his father's death in 1753, Hendrick built a new house there, the site of which is now covered by the block bounded by Monroe, Cherry, Jefferson, and Clinton Streets. We know that this house was completed before November 5, 1755, for the iron window bars which leaned against the wall were shaken down on that day at the time of the great Lisbon earthquake. When the city fell into the hands of the British troops, Hendrick was forced to retire to Albany, and he died there in 1779. It was his eldest daughter by Catharine de Peyster, Catharine Rutgers, who married William Bedlow, and whose daughter, Catharine Bedlow, married Dr. Ebenezer Crosby. Another daughter of William Bedlow married John Beekman, from whom a branch of the Beekman family trace their descent. Another daughter of Hendrick Rutgers married Gerard de Peyster, and from them the Remsen family is derived. Hendrick had also a son Henry, who never married. He became one of the richest as well as one of the most benevolent and influential citizens of New York. It was he who, on the death of Catharine Bedlow, assumed the care of John and William Crosby. Henry Rutgers was born in 1745, and was graduated at Kings (now Columbia) College in the class of 1766. He entered the Continental Army at the outbreak of the Revolution, took part in the battle of White Plains, and served until the end of the war. He was always known as Colonel Rutgers. His father left him a large fortune, including the house on the East River, and he was reputed to be the richest man in the State of New York. This house was used as a hospital by the British army. After the evacuation of the city, Colonel Rutgers returned to his home and lived there until his death, in 1830. He served frequently in the Assembly at Albany and was a firm supporter of President Jefferson. He was also a regent of the University of the State and president of the Public School Society. He gave land to various churches; and Rutgers College (formerly Queens College) at New Brunswick was named after him "as a mark of respect for his character." It was his custom to spend one-fourth of his income in charity. For many years he made it a rule to give a cake and a book to every boy in the Seventh Ward who would call on him on New Year's Day. The children always collected before his door, and he made them an address of a religious kind. In 1819 he served on a committee to devise a plan for checking the spread of slavery. In the family Colonel Rutgers has left the kindest traditions, and the name of "Uncle Rutgers" is synonymous with all that is honorable and endearing. His portrait, by Inman, is now the property of Mrs. F. Tilden Brown. Duplicate originals may be seen at the halls of the New York Historical Society and at Rutgers College.† It was "Uncle Rutgers"

* For the de Peyster family, with portraits, see "Valentine's Manual," 1861, p. 556. A portrait in oil of Catharine de Peyster (Mrs. Hendrick Rutgers) is now in my possession.

† For a full account of the Rutgers family and of Colonel Rutgers, with an artotype of the Inman portrait, see the NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL RECORD, April, 1886. For portrait of Colonel Rutgers see "Memorial History of New York," vol. iii., p. 271; and Bonner's "History of the Public School Society," p. 96.

who now, on the death of his niece, Mrs. Ebenezer Crosby, undertook the care of her orphan sons. John Player Crosby, the elder of the two, was graduated at Columbia College in 1802. At the age of about twenty-one he went to the island of Jamaica to take possession of an estate worth \$40,000, which had been left to him by his god-father, John Player, a resident planter and a cousin through the Bedlows. While in Jamaica John was attacked by a fever ending in hasty consumption, of which he died. He left the Jamaica property to his brother William, but the estate was eventually confiscated upon the ground that an alien could not take it. A cocoanut bowl mounted in silver is all that remains of this property; it is now in my possession. There is extant a portrait of John Player Crosby—a little boy playing on a drum—belonging to Henry Ashton Crosby.

The younger son of Dr. Ebenezer Crosby, William Bedlow Crosby, was not sent to college, his great-uncle intending that he should devote himself to the management of the family estates, and believing that a classical education was not necessary for that purpose. The Rutgers farm had been turned into city lots and was now very valuable, as is shown by the fact that at the time of his death Colonel Rutgers was worth about a million dollars, which at that time (1830) was a colossal fortune. A large share of this fell to William, including the "mansion house and all the land attached thereto." The care of his great-uncle's property and his own was sufficient to form, as it did, the business of William's life, leaving time, however, for numerous philanthropic activities.

Colonel Rutgers had a cousin, the Rev. William Clarkson, the grandson of his mother's sister, Cornelia de Peyster. This Mr. Clarkson had been educated as a physician at Philadelphia, but afterwards became a Presbyterian minister and was settled at Savannah, Georgia, when Colonel Rutgers invited him to visit him with his family at New York. On their arrival the Colonel sent William Crosby, then a boy of fifteen, to escort them from the vessel on which they had made the voyage. The first one of the family whom William saw on deck was the eldest daughter, Harriet, a bright, black-eyed girl of the same age as himself. William promptly fell in love with her, and finally, on his twenty-first birthday, February 7, 1807, they were married. It proved a most happy union of over fifty-two years.

The Clarkson* family had as its ancestor Matthew Clarkson, who was Secretary of the Province of New York, and died in 1702. Matthew's son, Matthew, Junior, by Catharine Van Schaick, his wife, married Cornelia Bancker de Peyster, a sister of Catharine de Peyster, wife of Hendrick Rutgers.

Matthew Clarkson, Junior, died in 1739, and his widow married the Rev. Gilbert Tennent, then pastor of the Presbyterian Church at New Brunswick, N. J. In 1743 Mr. Tennent was called to the New Presbyterian Church at Philadelphia, and there his wife's son, Gerardus Clarkson, who was then six years old, was brought up. He studied medicine, and in 1760 went to Europe and travelled extensively. He married Mary Flower † May 13, 1761, and their son William Clarkson

* See "The Clarksons of New York," 2 vols., New York, 1875-76.

† For the Flower family, see "Memoirs of Matthew and Gerardus Clarkson," Philadelphia, 1898, p. 244.



Rutgers - Crosby House in 1865. Rutgers Place, New York City. South Front.

was born November 7, 1763. Dr. Gerardus Clarkson was the first treasurer of the College of Physicians at Philadelphia; he was also trustee of the University of Pennsylvania and member of the Philadelphia Medical Society and American Philosophical Society. He died in 1790. John Swanwick in his "Poems" inscribes some verses to his memory, beginning, "Farewell, my friend, it seems we meet no more." * Cutler in his diary speaks of him as "one of those fine, accomplished, benevolent characters which inspire the most exalted ideas of human nature." † Gerardus's brother Matthew was Mayor of Philadelphia, and had a daughter who married Robert Ralston. William Clarkson, son of Gerardus, was graduated at the College of New Jersey, and later, in 1785, in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania. He was a founder and fellow of the College of Physicians, but in 1793 gave up that profession and became a Presbyterian minister, and was settled successively at Bridgeton, N. J.; Schenectady, N. Y.; Savannah, Ga., and at St. John's Island, S. C., where he died September 9, 1812. ‡

Catharine, the wife of William Clarkson and mother of Harriet Crosby, was the daughter of General William Floyd, signer of the Declaration of Independence, by his first wife Isabella Jones, of the Jones family of Long Island. General Floyd § (born 1734, died 1821) was a member of the Floyd family of Long Island, and his house at Mastic is still in his family. He was a great-grandson of Matthias Nicoll, Secretary of the Province of New York and Mayor of the City of New York. William Floyd represented New York in the Continental Congress, and became eventually an honorary member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He passed his last years at Western, near Utica, N. Y., leaving his old homestead in the possession of his son. Among his descendants are the Talmages, Delafields, and Varicks. Catharine, or Kitty, Floyd (born 1767, died 1832) accompanied her father to Philadelphia during the sessions of Congress, and became a belle in society there. She was induced against her will to engage herself to Mr. Madison, afterwards President of the United States, but finally succeeded in breaking off the engagement, and married young Dr. Clarkson instead. The ceremony took place at Mastic. While she was engaged to Mr. Madison she had her miniature painted for him. Mr. Madison returned it to General Floyd, and he handed it to his daughter, saying sternly: "Take care, Miss, to whom you give this." As a matter of fact she gave it to young Dr. Clarkson, and it is now in the possession of his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Morris R. S. Mackenzie. Rives, in his "Life and Times of Madison," || gives this account of this episode: "To this new source of pleasure" (Mr. Jefferson's presence in Philadelphia) "was added a yet stronger fascination in an attach-

* See "Memoirs of Matthew and Gerardus Clarkson"; see also "An Account of the College of Physicians," by Dr. Ruschenberger. Philadelphia, 1887, pp. 43, 184, 217.

† "Life of the Rev. Manasseh Cutler," Cincinnati, 1888, vol. i., p. 256.

‡ See "Account of the College of Physicians," pp. 54, 217. For life and diary of William Clarkson, see "Memoirs of Matthew and Gerardus Clarkson," p. 194 *et seq.*

§ For life of William Floyd, see Sanderson's "Biography of the Signers," vol. iv., Philadelphia, 1826.

|| Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1881, vol. i., p. 522.

ment to an interesting and accomplished young lady, daughter of an old friend of Mr. Jefferson, General William Floyd, of New York. This attachment, which promised at one time the most auspicious result, terminated at last in disappointment." Jefferson wrote to Madison on August 31, 1783, with reference to this event: "I sincerely lament the misadventure which has happened, from whatever cause it may have happened. Should it be final, however, the world still presents the same and many other resources of happiness and you possess many within yourself. Firmness of mind and unintermitting occupation will not long leave you in pain. No event has been more contrary to my expectations, and these were founded on what I thought a good knowledge of the ground. But of all machines, ours is the most complicated and inexplicable."

It is a coincidence that Kitty's sister, Mary Floyd, afterwards Mrs. Benjamin Talmage, was engaged for a time to Jefferson himself. Both sisters were handsome. Dr. William Clarkson's daughter, Harriet Crosby, always spoke of him as having a most lovable Christian character. Of his widow, Kitty Floyd, her granddaughter, Mary Crosby, still speaks as a "mild, gentle, and very pretty old lady, of delicate health, sitting in her rocking chair, knitting, but with her large Bible ever on her lap"; she also recalls her spinning wheel. She had a particularly beautiful hand, of which an artist once wished to take a model.

When William Bedlow Crosby had married Harriet Clarkson, in 1807, their first residence was in Orchard Street, then a rural lane not far from Colonel Rutgers's house. In the meanwhile William built a commodious house at 18 Rutgers Street, next door but one to the Rutgers Street Church, now St. Theresa's. This house is now occupied by St. Theresa's Academy. William took possession of this house in 1808, and there he lived until Colonel Rutgers's death, in 1830, and there most of his twelve children were born. In 1830 he made the Rutgers Place house* his home, remodelling it after the pattern of a house in Regent Park, London. Monroe Street was carried through the two blocks upon which the house stood, and the new street was called Rutgers Place. The house had previously faced Jefferson Street, but now its north side was made its main front and it assumed the appearance which it retained until it was torn down a year or more after Mr. Crosby's death, in 1865. The grounds occupied the entire block with lawns, garden, and stable. The photograph from which our illustration is taken represents the south front of the house as it was a few weeks after Mr. Crosby's death.

In the year 1837 Mr. Crosby made a tour of Europe with his wife and his children, John, Ralston, Mary, and Howard. They travelled post through England and on the Continent. On the return voyage a Norwegian bark ran into their vessel, carrying away the bowsprit and foremast. In the midst of the excitement Mr. Crosby took his Bible and read aloud the one hundred and seventh Psalm to his family. The ship put in at Portsmouth, only one hundred miles distant from the scene of the col-

* For prints of this house see "Memorial History of New York," vol. iii., pp. 113 and 210; "Valentine's Manual," 1858, p. 606; p. 268.

lision, and after two weeks devoted to repairs, the voyage was begun again with the same passengers on board.

William was a man of great benevolence, and devoted much of his time and fortune to charitable objects, such as the Bible Society, the Seaman's Friend Society, the various boards of the Dutch Church, and innumerable private charities. I can remember going with him to the Market Street Church, and being impressed with the fact that he stood up during the prayers, the old-fashioned custom. He was a tall and handsome old gentleman. Dr. Cuyler, pastor of the church, writes in the *Evangelist*, March 8, 1882, "In the middle aisle every Sabbath (storm or shine) sat Col.* William B. Crosby, the lord of the manor, and the heir of his uncle, Colonel Rutgers. He had the stately figure and the air of an English duke; but those of us who knew him best, knew well that a more genial, humble, devout, and benevolent heart could not be found in a Sabbath day's journey. The atmosphere of social aristocracy no more tainted his sweet, tender spirituality than it did that of his friend Theodore Frelinghuysen. They kept unspotted from the world." I have heard old residents of the Seventh Ward say that they always spoke of him as "Lord Crosby." Grandfather Crosby was accustomed to retire to his dressing-room at noon every day for an hour's prayer and Bible reading. His wife, Harriet Clarkson, was in all respects worthy of him, and their children cherished the memory of both with the deepest veneration and affection. After the children were married, Monday was set aside for a family dinner at Rutgers Place. The seventh of February, grandfather's birthday, as well as his wedding day, was always kept as a day of family gathering. On February 7, 1857, the golden wedding was celebrated in the old house, and on that occasion two of the grandchildren were baptized by Chancellor Ferris with water from the Jordan, viz.: Margaret, daughter of John, and the present writer. Mrs. Crosby died on December 13, 1859, and her husband followed on March 18, 1865, leaving an estate valued at \$1,000,000. On February 7, 1876, and again on February 7, 1886, his ninetieth and one hundredth birthdays, a family reunion was held in their memory at the home of their son Howard, No. 116 East Nineteenth Street. On the latter occasion a sketch of their lives in pamphlet form, from the pen of their daughter Mary, was distributed.† Several portraits were painted of Mr. and Mrs. Crosby; the first two, painted about 1812, by Waldo, now belong to their daughter, Mary Crosby, and are reproduced with this paper; another pair, by Inman, painted about 1840, are in the possession of their granddaughter, Mrs. Mackenzie; two others, in crayon, are now owned by the Rev. Arthur Crosby; and two miniatures of an early date belong to the latter's sister, Catherine Crosby. The remains of William and his wife are buried in the family vault at Greenwood Cemetery.

In concluding this account, I append a list of the children and grandchildren of William Bedlow Crosby and Harriet Ashton Clarkson, his wife.

1. William Henry Crosby, always called Henry, born June 28, 1808, graduated at Columbia College in the class of 1827; Professor of Greek

* This title was acquired from service in the militia in the War of 1812. He was aide-de-camp to Major-General Stevens (see Guernsey's "New York City during the War of 1812," vol. ii., pp. 243, 311). Mr. Crosby also succeeded his father as member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

† A part of this pamphlet is quoted in "Memoirs of M. and G. Clarkson," p. 204.

and Latin at Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J., 1841-1849, and also Professor of Latin *ad interim* at Columbia College, 1859-1860; edited an edition of Cornelius Nepos; Vice-President of the American Bible Society; succeeded his father as member of the Society of the Cincinnati, and was treasurer of the New York Chapter; lived for many years at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; died at New York, May 21, 1892; married November 4, 1830, Josepha Matilda, daughter of Dr. John Neilson of New York. They had the following children:

- i. Harriet Clarkson Crosby, born September 15, 1831; died December 26, 1832.
 - ii. Julia Neilson Crosby, born July 31, 1833; now (1898) and for many years a missionary at Yokohama, Japan.
 - iii. Josepha Crosby, born March 17, 1835; married December 18, 1860, to De Witt Clinton Jones, now of Elizabeth, N. J., grandson of Governor De Witt Clinton.
 - iv. Matilda Crosby, born March 17, 1835 (twin); died August 2, 1841.
 - v. William Bedlow Crosby, born June 7, 1836; died November 4, 1836.
 - vi. Ellen Murray Crosby, born October 13, 1837; married June 6, 1866, to John Aspinwall Roosevelt of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, and has children.
 - vii. Neilson Crosby, born April 18, 1840; died January 22, 1841.
 - viii. Harman Rutgers Crosby, born July 30, 1845; graduated at Rutgers College; died June 15, 1869.
 - ix. The Rev. Arthur Crosby, born April 10, 1847; graduated at Rutgers College; pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, N. Y.; now head-master of Mount Tamalpais Military Academy, San Rafael, California; succeeded his father as member of the Society of the Cincinnati; married May 14, 1870, Josephine La Tourette, daughter of John Burke, and has children.
 - x. William Henry Crosby, born September 17, 1850; died October 19, 1850.
 - xi. Catharine Clarkson Crosby of New York, born April 14, 1852.
2. John Player Crosby, born May 22, 1810; graduated at Columbia College in the class of 1827; a well-known member of the New York Bar, and director and trustee of various institutions: drowned while bathing at Fire Island, September 19, 1876; married (first) in February, 1835, Ellen, daughter of John K. Murray of New York, who died May 12, 1836, without issue. Mr. Crosby married May 22, 1840, as his second wife, Margaret Barker (born May 15, 1819; died 1894), daughter of Benjamin F. Butler, Attorney-General of the United States under President Jackson, and had the following children:
- i. Franklin Butler Crosby, born February 4, 1841; First Lieutenant Regular U. S. Artillery; killed by a musket-ball at the battle of Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863.
 - ii. William Bedlow Crosby, born June 19, 1842; LL.B. Columbia College, 1867; Acting Assistant Paymaster, U. S. Navy, 1863-4; appointed Consul-General at Rome, 1872; member of the New York Bar; married Maria Theresa,

- daughter of A. Oakey Hall, once Mayor of New York, June 28, 1877, who died May 23, 1891, leaving children.
- iii. Henry Ashton Crosby, born November 21, 1843; married November 21, 1878, Mary, daughter of Sheldon Leavitt of New York, and has children.
 - iv. John Player Crosby^a, born November 29, 1845; died May 10, 1876.
 - v. Allen Howard Crosby, born November 22, 1847; died January 4, 1887; married October 18, 1871, Josepha McDonald, daughter of Edmund M. Young of New York, and left children.
 - vi. Mary Crosby, born October 18, 1849; married October 3, 1889, Edward Holland Nicoll of New York, who died at Santa Barbara, California, December 29, 1895.
 - vii. Harriet Allen Crosby, born November 19, 1851; died June 24, 1855.
 - viii. Rutgers Crosby, born June 9, 1854; lost at sea December 10, 1878.
 - ix. Margaret Butler Crosby, born September 22, 1856; author of "A Violin Obligato," etc.
 - x. Edward Floyd Crosby, born November 26, 1858; died at Helena, Montana, ———; married March 9, 1886, Jennie Eliza, daughter of the Rt. Rev. Leigh R. Brewer, Bishop of Montana. He left one daughter.
 - xi. Elizabeth Butler Crosby, born September 10, 1860; married June 1, 1887, Robert Johnston Hare Powel of New York and Newport, R. I., and has children.
3. Catharine Clarkson Crosby, born May 5, 1812; died February 6, 1882; married November 9, 1836, Henry H. Stevens of Poughkeepsie, son of Gen. Ebenezer Stevens and Lucretia Ledyard, his wife. Their children were:
 - i. Harriet Crosby Stevens, born August 21, 1837; died March 5, 1839.
 - ii. Francis Kirby Stevens, born August 18, 1839; died February 22, 1874; married January 21, 1868, Mary Noel Carpenter, now of New Brunswick, N. J., daughter of Jacob S. Carpenter and Catharine Neilson, his wife, and left children.
 - iii. Catharine Crosby Stevens, born January 20, 1841; died April 21, 1849.
 - iv. Anna Clarkson Stevens, born April 8, 1843; married August 28, 1872, Morris Robinson Slidell Mackenzie, U. S. N., who commanded the "Mayflower" before Havana during the Spanish War in 1898.
 - v. William Crosby Stevens, born October 10, 1846; died December 7, 1865.
 4. Clarkson Floyd Crosby, born May 17, 1814; died November 20, 1816.
 5. Robert Ralston Crosby of New York, born December 3, 1815; died June 25, 1892; married April 27, 1859, Jane Murray, daughter of Henry Alexander Livingston of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., son of the distinguished minister of the Dutch Church, the Rev. John Henry Livingston, by his wife Sarah, daughter of Philip Livingston, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The children of Robert Ralston and Jane Murray Crosby are as follows :

- i. Cornelia Livingston Crosby, born March 3, 1860 ; married June 28, 1897, Alfred Duane Pell, son of George W. Pell of New York.
- ii. Harriet Ashton Crosby, born November 12, 1861 ; died September 22, 1877.
- iii. Robert Ralston Crosby, Jr., born June 1, 1863 ; married December 12, 1898, Emily Maria, daughter of the late John Jules Petit of New York.
- iv. Livingston Crosby, born September 3, 1864 ; married October 16, 1888, Lilian Murray, daughter of Dr. John Murray Carnochan of New York, and has a daughter.
- v. Edward Nicoll Crosby, born September 29, 1865 ; B.A. Columbia College, 1887.
- vi. Charles Ulrich Crosby, born March 22, 1868 ; died in infancy.
6. Clarkson Floyd Crosby of Watervliet, N. Y., born November 3, 1817 ; was graduated at Columbia College ; member of Assembly and Senator New York State ; married in 1838, Angelica, daughter of John Schuyler, Jr., of Watervliet. Their children are :
 - i. John Schuyler Crosby, of Washington, D. C., born September 19, 1839 ; educated at the University of the City of New York ; served during the Rebellion and until 1871 in the Regular U. S. Army ; was on the staffs of Generals Banks, Canby, and Sheridan ; saw active service also in Indian campaigns in the West ; was a Captain and brevet Lieutenant-Colonel at the time of his resignation of his commission ; U. S. Consul at Florence, Italy, 1877-1882 ; Governor of Montana Territory, 1882-1884 ; First Assistant Postmaster-General of the U. S., 1884-1886 ; member of the Board of Education, New York City ; holds Life-Saving Service medal for gallantry in saving life at the sinking of the yacht "Mohawk" in New York harbor in 1876 ; has also received the decoration of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus from the King of Italy ; married June 16, 1863, at the Van Rensselaer Manor-House, Albany, Harriet Van Rensselaer, daughter of Stephen Van Rensselaer, the last Patroon, and has children.
 - ii. Harriet Clarkson Crosby, born in 1843 ; married June 18, 1863, William A. Thompson of Troy, N. Y., and has children.
 - iii. Eliza Maria Crosby, born December, 1857 ; married April, 1878, the Rev. Thaddeus Snively of Troy, N. Y. ; and, secondly, William M. Alexander of Toronto, Canada, and has children.
7. Eliza Smedes Crosby, born June 21, 1819 ; died September 8, 1877 ; married in 1841, William Rhinelander Renwick of New York. Their children were :
 - i. Philip Rhinelander Renwick, born July 12, 1842 ; married February 17, 1862, Ellen Jeanette, daughter of Edwin Wase of Hunter, N. Y., and has children.
 - ii. William Crosby Renwick, born July 8, 1844 ; married June

- 19, 1872, Harriette, daughter of Peter McDonal of Troy, N. Y. She died May 13, 1877, and he married secondly July 17, 1879, Gertrude C., daughter of A. Elmore Sears of New York, and has children.
- iii. Emily Ashton Renwick, born July 8, 1847; married November 17, 1868, Edmund Abdy Hurry of New York, and has children.
- iv. Mary Crosby Renwick, born August 2, 1849, married October 31, 1872, Henry Tunstall Strong, M.D., of New York and Long Island, who died December 12, 1876. Mrs. Strong married secondly on June 4, 1884, Dr. Frederick Tilden Brown of New York, and has children.
- v. Helen Renwick, born —, married —, Anselm Schaff, son of the distinguished theologian, Dr. Philip Schaff, and has children.
8. Edward Nicoll Crosby, of Woodcliff, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., born March 13, 1821; died May 31, 1865; married January 26, 1847, Elizabeth M., daughter of James S. Van Schoonhoven of Troy, N. Y., and had children as follows:
- i. Elizabeth Lane Crosby, born November 13, 1847; died October 7, 1848.
- ii. Alice Clarkson Crosby, born February 4, 1849; married April 7, 1874, William Howard Doughty of Troy, N. Y., and has children.
- iii. Gertrude Ralston Crosby, born February 7, 1851; married October 22, 1878, Dr. S. Beach Jones of New York, and has children.
- iv. Louisa Lansing Crosby, born October 22, 1852; married October 22, 1880, John Lindley of the New York Bar, and has a daughter surviving.
- v. Mary Roosevelt Crosby, born October 28, 1855.
- vi. Walter Floyd Crosby, of Colorado Springs, Col., born March 2, 1857; married April 20, 1880, Louise Gautier, daughter of Cornelius Kingsland Sutton of New York, and has children.
- vii. Frederick Van Schoonhoven Crosby, born March 15, 1860; formerly Second Secretary of Legation at Berlin; Treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad Company; married November 11, 1896, Julia Floyd, daughter of Dr. Francis Delafield of New York, and has a daughter.
- viii. Helen Rutgers Crosby, born August 28, 1863; died April 17, 1882.
9. Mary Crosby of Yonkers, N. Y., born December 11, 1822.
10. Anna Bancker Crosby, born August 16, 1824; died July 30, 1826.
11. Howard Crosby, born February 27, 1826; died March 29, 1891; Professor of Greek at the University of the City of New York and at Rutgers College; Chancellor of the University of New York; Pastor of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, 1863-1891; President of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, etc., etc.; married March 17, 1847, Margaret Evertson, daughter of John Givan, originally of Ednam, near Kelso, Scotland, and afterwards of New York

and Westchester, and of Mary Ann Evertson, his wife (who was the daughter of Nicholas Evertson of the New York Bar and Trustee of Columbia College, and granddaughter of Major Baxter Howe [see Schuyler's Book of the Cincinnati], and through Mrs. Howe descended from Rip Van Dam, President of the Council and Acting Governor of the Province of New York). The following are the children of Howard and Margaret Evertson Crosby :

- i. Edith Rutgers Crosby, born February 10, 1851.
 - ii. Ernest Howard Crosby, of Grasmere, Rhinebeck, N. Y., born November 4, 1856 ; graduated at the University of the City of New York in the class of 1876, and at the Columbia College Law School in 1878 ; member of the N. Y. Legislature 1887-9, nominated in 1889 by President Harrison, and appointed by the Khedive of Egypt to be Judge of the Mixed Tribunals at Alexandria, Egypt ; resigned his post in 1894 ; married October 12, 1881, Fanny Kendall, daughter of Henry Maunsell Schieffelin of New York, and has children.
 - iii. Agnes Givan Crosby, born November 24, 1858 ; died March 18, 1891 ; married January 16, 1889, the Rev. Arthur Huntington Allen, Pastor of the Woodside Presbyterian Church at Troy, N. Y., and left a daughter.
 - iv. William Bedlow Crosby, born November 29, 1859 ; died June 11, 1860.
 - v. Nicholas Evertson Crosby, of New York, born December 12, 1861 ; graduated at Columbia College in the class of 1882 ; A.M. 1885 ; Ph.D. Princeton ; married June 5, 1895, Edith L., daughter of John W. Follett, of Pine Hill, Ulster County, N. Y.
 - vi. Grace Ashton Crosby, born March 13, 1871.
12. Harman Rutgers Crosby, born April 10, 1828 ; died June 30, 1830.

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